



7.1 WHY IS OUR PLANET IMPORTANT?



INTENT– In this unit you will start by exploring what it means to think like a geographer. You will be introduced the key concepts of Place, Space, Earth Systems, Environment, Time, Scale, Diversity, Interconnectedness and Representation. You get an overview of our planet and why it is important. You will reflect on why, as Catholics, we are called to be stewards of creation.

Builds on– KS2 basic knowledge of physical geography e.g. mountains and the water cycle.



Feedforward – provides the overview of the planet that will allow you to connect together topics across KS3

KEY LOCATIONS

KEY KNOWLEDGE



Global Scale
– the planet as a whole



National Scale



Local Scale

- The earth can be divided into different spheres – **Atmosphere, Lithosphere, Cryosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere.**
- The spheres are interconnected by a range of earth system processes for example photosynthesis
- **Biodiversity** is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. Healthy ecosystems provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.
- The planet provides us with a range of **goods** and **natural resources**.
- The planet provides a range of **services** that act as a life support system

Key
Concepts:



Place



Space



Earth
Systems



Environment

Catholic Social
Teaching

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Physical Geography	Features made by natural forces; also the study of natural processes that happen on earth.
Human Geography	Features made by humans; also the study of how humans affect or are influenced by earth.
Atmosphere	The gases surrounding the earth.
Biosphere	The areas of the earth in which living organisms are found, or the areas of the earth in which life can be sustained.
Cryosphere	The areas of the earth covered in ice.
Hydrosphere	All the water areas on earth.
Lithosphere	The rocky, hard part of the earth's surface including the crust and upper mantle.
Species	A group of organisms that share the same characteristics.
Natural Resources	Something found in nature that can be used by people e.g. minerals.
Goods	Items that can be bought or sold.
Services	Things that are not physical objects that can be bought or sold.
Stewardship	To look after the earth for future generations, as stewards rather than consumers.
Biodiversity	It is the number of different species found in an area or the total number of species on earth.
Place	Includes ideas of character, identity, landscape, sense of place and diversity.
Space	Includes ideas of location, distribution, patterns, interaction and distance.
Earth Systems	Physical processes and cycles including biological, chemical and physical changes.
Environment	Interactions between human and physical geography, including environmental change, resources and sustainability.
Time	Dimensions over which processes operate. Ideas of continuity and change.
Scale	Geographers need to zoom in and out of scales to understand spatial relationships. Includes local, national and global as well as small-scale and large-scale.
Diversity	Includes ideas of similarity, difference, comparison, and contrast. It includes and awareness of other cultures and identities.
Interconnection	People, places, environments and spaces are all connected to each other.
Interpretation	Appreciating different points of view.

CAREERS



Conservationist—

Conservationists and ecologists work in a wide range of places to protect and improve the environment. They may carry out research or work with local communities.

Curriculum Links